

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please add or amend the claims to read as follows, and cancel without prejudice or disclaimer claims indicated as cancelled. The following Listing of Claims is intended to replace all prior versions and/or listings of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims

1-24. **(Canceled)**

25. **(Currently Amended)** A method of managing application complexes using a management framework adapted for execution by a processor, each application complex comprising multiple tiers of servers, where servers in the same tier run an identical application and the servers of the multiple tiers work together to provide a specific service, each of said application complexes being definable via a respective application-complex type, the method comprising:

providing configuration information to the framework regarding an application-complex type via a respective plugin that supports said application-complex type, wherein the configuration information provided by said plugin encapsulates a relationship between one or more resources composing the respective application-complex type and respective characteristics of said resources;

responding to user operations input to said framework via a user interface that is adapted to the application-complex type according to the configuration information provided by said plugin;

defining an application complex as an instance of said application-complex type according to the configuration information provided by said plugin; [[and]]

allowing a user to control the association of servers with the multiple tiers of the application [[complex,]] complex:

~~wherein the framework is capable of managing by the framework~~ multiple application complexes of different types based on the configuration information provided by said plugin for each respective application-complex type,

~~detecting by the framework an event at a level of an application complex to which the framework is to respond in conjunction with the plugin; and~~

~~and wherein the framework, in cooperation with said plugin, is capable of~~

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in response to the event, applying by the framework, in cooperation with said plugin, configuration operations on application complexes of the respective application-complex [[type.]] type, using a plugin interface that defines a software protocol indicating to the framework how to exchange information with the plugin for configuring an instance of an application complex.

26. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 25, wherein said configuration information provided by the plugin includes information relating to the type of the application complex, the number of tiers, the application which the servers in each tier should run, and one or more properties of the application complex whose values can be specified by the user for each instance of the application-complex type.
27. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 25, wherein the plugin is responsive to a change in one or more properties of the application complex for updating the framework and configuring at least one of said servers in accordance with said change.
- 28-29. **(Canceled)**